

**Presentation of the Detroit Coalition against Police Brutality
To a Public Hearing of the Detroit City Council
On behalf of Citizens of Detroit, specifically those who have suffered brutality
At the hands of members of the Detroit Police Department
November 30, 1998**

We are here today to examine the nature and extent of the problem of police brutality in Detroit. It is unfortunate that we have to confront this issue again in Detroit, a city which first elected a Black mayor in 1974 as a direct result of widespread opposition to the misconduct of STRESS, the notorious police undercover decoy unit. Twenty-four years later, Detroit citizens must again wake up their elected officials and other leaders to the epidemic of police violence which threatens our youth, and erodes the quality of life for everyone.

This public hearing will proceed in three parts: (1) We will present an overview of the police brutality epidemic, reporting briefly on its national character, and situating Detroit within that context; (2) second, we will present solutions to the problems we are facing, and call upon the City Council to take responsibility for moving the City towards implementation of the necessary changes in City and police administration, and last, (3) we will hear testimonies from those who have been victimized by police.

A National Epidemic

Nationally and world-wide, the current economic situation involves record profits for corporations, dizzying highs and lows on Wall Street, and massive downsizing, cutbacks, low wages, privatization, unemployment, racism and poverty for the vast majority of the world's citizens. The people of Third World countries have been hardest hit by these economic policies; but here in the United States, it is our own city, Detroit, which has the highest poverty level of all the major cities, with 32% of our adult neighbors, and 50% of our children forced to live without basic necessities.

In this social context, where there is ever greater wealth for a few, and impoverishment of the many, police brutality is being used to enforce the status quo through intimidation, harassment, repression of human rights, brutal physical assaults, and outright murder. The police are functioning on behalf of the wealthy against the general population.

Brutalization of citizens is not a new role for policemen in Detroit. Most of us who are present at this hearing are aware of the historical problem of police abuse in Detroit. Correcting this problem was a major concern of the Coleman Young administration, and while Mayor Young had some success in his efforts to civilize and humanize the Detroit Police Department, it is clear to us that the current city administration is turning the clock back, using an increasingly alienated and corrupt police force to facilitate its own pursuit of corporate objectives and personal wealth.

Let us begin by clarifying what is meant by the term "police brutality." Police brutality is any behavior by law enforcement officers that results in either physical psychological, social, or spiritual oppression, repression or criminalization of citizens. It includes but is not limited to "unnecessary use of force from verbal to deadly". (McEwen,1996, 16.) Harassment such as "illegal searches, illegal photographs of youth, excessive questioning..." and racist behavior such as racial slurs and police sweeps in communities of color also constitute police brutality. (National Emergency Conference on Police Brutality and Misconduct, 1997,8) Some examples of police behavior in Detroit are assault, battery, false arrest and imprisonment, trespass, infliction of emotional distress, malicious prosecution, abuse of due process, defamation of property, and misuse of firearms. (Littlejohn 1990, 2-7.) Recent news reports, and the personal experiences that have been reported to the Coalition against Police Brutality indicate that Detroit policemen are engaged in such activities on an

routine basis. In addition, many persons have reported that Detroit policemen pursue and continue to harass and victimize individuals and families whose human rights they have already violated. There is substantial evidence that some Detroit policemen do in fact conspire to violate the civil rights of citizens, that they are engaged in carrying out personal vendettas against innocent citizens. (*Detroit News*, March 3, 1998, p.A1) These repressive tactics are further exacerbated by the involvement of some police officers in other forms of illegal activities, including conspiracy to rob citizens, drug trafficking, and /or the protection of drug dealers.

Intentional police brutality occurs in Detroit routinely, with officers becoming angry and losing control if a citizen does not obey orders quickly enough, if he/she talks back, or if officers feel that the citizen is not respecting their authority. The well-known case of Malice Green in 1992 illustrates the extent to which the city administration has permitted police behavior in routine interactions with the public to go completely out of control. Add to Malice Green's murder by Detroit policemen the murder of Jose Iturraide in 1992, Ricardo Gordy in 1993, Gary Glenn, also in 1993, Richard Tromeur (essential medicines withheld while he was in custody) in 1994, Rahab White in 1995, Lamar Grabel in 1996, Jimmi Ruth Ratliff, 1997, Roy Hoskins, 1997, and Damian Solomon and Cora Bell Jones in 1998. **See details of these and other recent police killings attached to this document.**

In August of this year, the research agency Human Rights Watch, released the results of its study of human rights violations in the United States. This document reported that:

Police brutality is one of the most serious, enduring and divisive human rights violations in the United States. The problem is nationwide, and its nature is institutionalized ... Police officers engage in unjustified shootings, severe beatings, fatal choking, and unnecessarily rough physical treatment throughout the United States, while their police superiors, city officials, and the Justice Department fail to act decisively to restrain or penalize such acts or even to record the full magnitude of the problem ... A victim seeking redress faces obstacles at every point in the process, ranging from overt intimidation to the reluctance of local and federal prosecutors to take on police brutality cases. Severe abuses persist because overwhelming barriers to accountability make it all too likely that officers who commit human rights violations escape to continue their abusive conduct.

This statement by Human Rights Watch states concisely all the factors contributing to the crisis of police brutality in our city and throughout the United States: that the police behavior is so out of control as to be criminal, that police criminality is supported and hidden by the very officials who are supposed to be accountable to citizens, that a citizen who has suffered abuse at the hands of the police is not likely to find recourse within the government, and that, finally, police are not accountable to any agency of control, and are left to commit crimes repeatedly without penalty.

The Human Rights Watch report notes that these same conditions of police misconduct were cited 30 years ago in the 1968 Kerner Commission Report, and again in a 1981 report of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Yet the problem of police brutality persists unabated to the present.

Another organization, the Stolen Lives Project, established in 1997 by the National Lawyers' Guild, the October 22nd Coalition, and the Anthony Baez Foundation, has documented hundreds of cases of police murder nationwide for the period 1990 to 1998. It is believed that these deaths represent only the tip of the iceberg of police crimes.

Spokespersons for the Stolen Lives Project estimate that four to six persons die every day at the hands of the police or the U.S. Border Patrol. To this death toll, we have to add also the tens of thousands of individuals who are harassed, beaten, raped, and imprisoned without due process by police

Most profoundly affected in every city and region of the United States are citizens of color, for whom "driving while black" or being young, Black, Latino, Arab or Asian, have become undeclared "crimes" in the

eyes of the police nationwide. In many such encounters with the police, young people have been subjected to all manner of punishment, up to and including summary execution on the streets or in their homes.

Typical Forms of Police Misconduct

The following incidents from various regions of the country illustrate typical forms of police misconduct and criminal violation of human rights:

In Greensboro, North Carolina, the death of 19-year-old Daryl Eugene Howerton, allegedly at the hands of police officers who were charged with using excessive force, has prompted community activists to push for the creation of a citizens review board for the Greensboro Police Department. (Paula Christian, *Greensboro, NC News Record*, October 30, 1998)

In Los Angeles, California, the FBI has opened a civil rights investigation into the shooting of Lonnie Wenger by a San Bernardino County sheriff's deputy. Results will be forwarded to the US Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney's office in Los Angeles. Wenger was shot in the head on October 15 after he changed his mind about turning himself in on a warrant related to drunken driving. (*Associated Press*, October 30, 1998)

In Laporte, Texas, four policemen, all in their 20s, have been charged with threatening to use a metal pipe as an "anal probe" during the interrogation of a suspect arrested for public intoxication. (*United Press International*, November 4, 1998)

In Philadelphia, local residents and the Gloucester County NAACP have called for a federal investigation of a racially motivated police shooting in West Deptford. African-American residents are demanding that the U.S. Justice Department investigate their allegations that police officers opened fire on five African American teenage boys who were sitting in their family's yard. The officers, Fred Gismondi, 28, and Stephen Thayer, 26, were indicted for allegedly firing a gun from a pickup truck while off-duty in April. Both men are out on bail. Investigators said they found nine spent .40-caliber shells in the area after the shooting. No injuries were reported. (Candace Heckman, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 28, 1998)

On October 19, demonstrators at a rally to mourn the slaying of a gay Wyoming college student claimed they were abused by officers who made more than 100 arrests. (*Reuters News Agency*, October 21, 1998)

In New York, when tens of thousands of young Black folk gathered in Harlem for the Million Youth March, the Mayor of New York sent out hundreds of policemen who herded the march participants through barricades and hovered over them in helicopters, intending to provoke a full-scale confrontation. The March came on the heels of the horrendous Abner Louima case of police abuse, when the New York City Police Department was being criticized for its officers' brutality and for its irresponsible handling of citizens' complaints.

The Criminalization of a Generation

It was clear in the New York Million Youth March in daily police-youth confrontations across the nations, that the government has set itself against Black youth, and wants to use its considerable power to disabuse the younger generation of its militancy and basic human rights.

Michigan has one of the worse records for criminalizing its youth. In 1996, Michigan passed a law to try juveniles younger than 15 as adults, and promptly convicted a 14 year old as an adult. Currently there are attempts to convict 11 year-old Nathaniel Abraham as an adult. Ironically, while Michigan voters believe

children must be tried as adults, they have passed laws prohibiting 16 year olds from acquiring unrestricted drivers licenses.

The national trend of criminalizing our young people is reflected in the passage by the House of Representatives of a law to give money to states that make 14 the age when juveniles may be tried as adults and sent to adult prisons—in spite of the fact that youth who are sent to adult prisons are 30% more likely to commit violent crimes as adults. (Detroit News, May 18, 1997, p.5B.)

Michigan is seventh in the nation in imprisonment of juveniles, but 30th in ensuring services for child wellbeing. The \$25,000 a year that Michigan spends to hold a prisoner could provide 5 Michigan children with high-quality preschool education. Though the budget of the Michigan Department of Corrections is \$1.5 billion, only \$70 million are allocated to family support services. Between 1986 and 1996, the state prison budget increased 51%, while state funding for services to children and families decreased 12%. (Detroit News, November 9, 1997, p. 7B)

In a further move to criminalize our young people, the Detroit Police Department (DPD) is calling for implementation of a law that will provide for fingerprinting everyone who is arrested, regardless of whether they are charged. Even when charges are dropped or no charges are filed at all, such arrests are being used to create criminal “profiles” of youths. For example, part of the justification for trying 11-year-old Nathaniel Abraham as an adult was that he had had 25 “contacts” with police. These so-called “contacts” were no more than his having been stopped and questioned by the police. **See attached document of protest against this fingerprinting policy submitted by the Coalition against Police Brutality to the Detroit City Council.**

Many youth are being arrested for minor offenses like curfew violations and underage drinking, with their cases being transferred to district courts, where the penalties are stiffer. Curfews for youth are proliferating: recently a law was passed that allows mall owners to bar youths under 16 on weekends after 6 p.m. Our Devils Night curfews are the notorious, with hundreds of youth swept up, and in one outrageous instance taken to court in chains. There have even been raids on “raves” clubs, where youth go to dance. In one raid in 1995, more than 80 youths were arrested for being in a club that allegedly didn’t have proper operating papers.

In Detroit, there is constant harassment and arrests of young people for “driving while Black” at Belle Isle and along Jefferson Avenue. Many arrests take place around schools. Courts are full of youths arrested as “truants” while on their way to school. Last year at Cooley High School, parents were outraged when police arrested youth who were late for class *inside* the school.

In addition, young people are subjected to the “lists of gang suspects” compiled by police in most major cities. For example, in 1993, Denver police admitted to listing over 2/3 of all the African American youth and young men between the ages of 12 and 24 in that city as “suspects.” Now the federal government is threatening to compile a national list of “gang suspects.” (Jerome G. Miller, *Search and Destroy*, Cambridge University Press, 1997, p. 109.) These measures are being taken despite the fact that less than half of one percent of teenagers nationwide ever commit violent crimes. (Detroit News, May 18, 1997, p. 5B)

In 1997, there were 10,145 juvenile arrests in Detroit. (Juvenile Crime Statistics, Detroit Police Department Annual Report, 1997) 5,574 of those arrests were for loitering; 4,024 for curfew violations; 105 for drugs, and 431 classified as miscellaneous. To say that an entire generation is being criminalized is reality, not rhetoric. The young people represented in these statistics are our future. We must not allow the police to treat them as criminals, creating a death trap for them before they even have a chance to reflect upon their life goals.

Police Arrests Target African Americans and Latinos and Other People of Color

As of August 8, 1998, there were 1,752,842 people in state and federal prisons (not counting ½ million people in county and state jails). Most of those incarcerated are young and Black or Latino. ¾ million people have been added to the prison population in the last four years alone, despite the fact that the crime rate has dropped steadily. (U.S. Department of Justice, August 8, 1998.)

Black people, just 12% of the population, make up a majority of those in prison. **Almost as many black people are in prison now as the entire prison population of four years ago.** There are more young Black men in prison than in college. 63% of all youth in reform school are Black. Blacks are incarcerated at a rate of eight times that of whites. 8.3% of all Black men age 25-29 are in prison. In major cities, on any given day, four out of 10 young Black men will be either in jail, in prison, on probation or parole, out on bond or being sought on arrest warrants. (Miller, 7) In Michigan between 1981 and 1991, arrests for serious crimes dropped by 12%. Among the arrests for that decade, only 12.5% involved violence. Yet arrests *increased* by 46% in that same period. Nationally, between 1979 and 1991, there was a 27% drop in crimes against people and a 31% drop in crimes against property. (Miller, 29)

So why are there so many people in prison? More prisoners have been convicted of possession or sale of drugs than all violent crimes together. Between 1960 and 1996, convictions for drug possession rose by 86%! While the rate of drug use for white, African American and Latino people is the same, the arrest rates are not. In N.Y., 92% of all those arrested for possession of drugs are Black; in Baltimore 90% of all juveniles arrested for possession were Black; in Columbus, with an 11% African American population, 90% of all those arrested for drugs were Black. The racist nature of sentencing in drug cases is infamous: five years mandatory minimum sentence for possessing five grams of crack, most often used by African Americans; but only one year mandatory minimum sentence for possessing five grams of powder cocaine, which is most often used by whites.

The Economic Costs of Police Brutality to Detroit Citizens

Over the last decade, the number of lawsuits and monetary settlements in police brutality claims has escalated. Citizens have been generous in their awards to plaintiffs because they are outraged at the abhorrent nature of police abuse cases that come to the courts. Since 1986, \$107 million dollars of Detroit citizens' tax monies have been paid to settle lawsuits brought by civilians and police claimants. In 1997 alone, 15,7 million dollars were spent. (*Detroit News*, March 9, 1998, p. A1)

Recent research indicated that of all the major urban centers in this country, Detroit taxpayers have had to pay the largest amount of money in settlement of police brutality lawsuits. (*Detroit News*, July 8, 1998, p. C6) Our tax coffers are being emptied by the millions in settlement of these cases; but disciplinary actions against police who brutalize lag far behind.

APPENDIX A
RECENT CASES OF POLICE ABUSE AND KILLINGS
IN THE DETROIT METROPOLITAN AREA

The Coalition is demanding justice in the following recent cases of killings and brutality by police in the Metropolitan Detroit area, which have been brought to our attention by the families' of the victims who have become members of our Coalition.

LAMAR GRABLE, age 20 (9/21/96)

Moments after leaving his father's home for a church party. Lamar was shot eight times including twice in the back and three times in his chest at close range, by police officer Eugene Brown with PO.Vicki Yost on Sept. 21, 1996, on Field near Kercheval.

Lamar was not known to carry a gun and no physical evidence has been produced tying him to the gun police claim he was carrying. Lamar was a loving son to Ametta Grable and Herman Vallery, brother, grandson, and father, active in community affairs. He had no police record. He was AfricanAmerican. No justice or punishment of the police has been rendered to date. P.O. Brown was given an award for his shooting because he was wearing a bullet-proof vest!

JIMMI RUTH RATLIFF, 47 (12/9/97)

A beautiful professional woman who worked at Blue Cross for 22 years, Jimmi Ratliff was shot to death by police in her apartment at 1300 E. Lafayette on December 9, 1997. The shooting took place after a horrific assault on her building by an army of police including a SWAT team using tear gas and the latest in modern assault weapons. The police were called by the apartment manager simply because Ms. Ratliff would not allow staff into her apartment. Although police claim she fired a gun, her sister Eva Crowley states that the gun she owned had only been fired twice, at a practice range.

Family members called to the scene were not allowed to see or talk to Ms. Ratliff. While guarded by police, they heard current Police Chief Benny Napoleon and others coldbloodedly plan her killing. Ms. Ratliff was shot through the wall of her bedroom by a rifle with an infrared sight. No justice has been obtained to date. Ms. Ratliff was African-American.

RAHAAB WHITE, 21

On December 9, 1995, Rahaab left his mother Jamellah Sombai's house late at night after having dinner, helping a neighbor start her car, and shovelling the sidewalks in front of the townhouse complex where they lived. He was to meet a friend who worked near the Union Street restaurant on Woodward. Moments later, he lay dying on Woodward, shot twice in the chest, only once at close range, by off-duty police officer Thomas Phillips. Phillips and a parking lot valet claimed Rahaab had tried to rob them of \$40 in receipts at gunpoint.

Rahaab had money with him when he left his mother's, and was planning to get married and go to Wayne State University in January. He had just completed a year of study in Africa. He had no reason to commit a robbery and did not own a gun. Contradictory statements about the incident were given to the police by the parking lot attendant and other witnesses. Rahaab was African-American.

CORA BELL JONES, 79 (8/15/98)

On August 15, 1998, police stormed into Ms. Jones' home, beat her great-grandson who was trying to protect his family from a drive-by shooting that had just occurred, and maced her daughter who was in a wheelchair. Ms. Jones, frail, with Alzheimer's disease, partially blind and deaf, sought to confront the intruders who were hurting her family. With twenty police officers in the house, Ms. Jones was shot to

death. Cold-bloodedly, Assistant Police Chief Charles Wilson claimed the shooting was “a proper use of force.” Homicide Inspector William Rice said “A shot was fired and it went where it was directed.” Ms. Jones was African-American.

DAMIAN SOLOMON, 26 (2/12/98)

This young African-American and two companions were stopped by police on Feb. 12, 1998 on Tyler near Linwood, for allegedly “loitering” in a vacant lot. Residents in the area stated no one had complained about their presence. Police officer Marlon Benson shot Damian three times at pointblank range in the heart, allegedly after a chase during which P.O. Benson was shot in the hip. Although police claimed Damian had a gun with him, residents observed them searching through the area for a weapon after the killing. Residents also complained of constant police harassment.

RICARDO GORDY, 21 (3/24/93)

While handcuffed, Ricardo choked to death in the back of a police car near his home on Seyburn on March 24, 1993. Witnesses stated variously that police either refused to help him when he choked, or intentionally used a “death choke.” The police officers responsible for his death were not punished or reprimanded, although a small legal settlement was obtained in his case by his family.

ROY HOSKINS, 14 (4/20/97)

A ninth-grader at the time of his death in 1997, he was the youngest of seven children of Lena Hoskins. Witnesses reported that Police Officer James Woods was seated in his car when he shot and killed Roy. They say that Roy was standing still, with his arms raised and his back turned to the officer. He was not armed. He was shot in the back.

P.O. Woods was cleared of any wrongdoing after two police investigations, although the Hoskins family accepted a lawsuit settlement of \$1.6 million in his death, March 24, 1998.

MACOMB COUNTY POLICE

JOHN COSBY III, 26 (8/2/94)

After arrest in 1994 by Macomb County police, this young African-American was subjected to constant physical and verbal abuse, culminating in a beating August 2 that left him in danger of bleeding to death. While in custody of the Detroit police after being hospitalized, John informed them that he feared for his life if returned. Despite complaints filed by his attorney and the testimony of other prisoners in the Macomb County jail, he was scheduled to be returned. He was only able to physically avoid further brutality and death by commandeering the helicopter returning him to the Macomb County jail.

ROYAL OAK POLICE

DANTE FOSTER, 26 (3/27/98)

A new father, Dante was shot to death March 27, 1998 by Royal Oak police officer Mark Porter, while sitting in the car he owned, with \$4,000 in his pocket to purchase a new car. His crime? Allegedly using his younger brother’s ID to buy the car because his credit was bad. Although the medical examiner and witnesses confirmed that Porter fired at Foster from well outside the car, the prosecutor has just refused to bring charges, claiming the shooting was an “accident” occurring during a struggle in the car. A federal investigation of the case has been announced, and a lawsuit has been filed by the family.

DEARBORN POLICE

DALON GUNN, 24 (7/19/97)

The mother of a 3-year-old girl, DaLon was killed July 19, 1997, when Dearborn police officer Michael **Christoff slammed into** her car during a high-speed chase through a residential neighborhood. Witnesses stated Christoff’s car was leading at least a dozen cars from several departments, going up to 90 mph, with no sirens in use. The force of the collision slammed DaLon’s car 150 feet into the porch of a house. Even

though the State Police found Christoff at fault, the Wayne County prosecutor refused to bring charges. Lawsuits are pending.

BERNARD SALAZAR, 21 (9/98)

Shot in the head by police who broke into his home.

ROBERT VILLAREAL, 29 (3/15/98)

Shot multiple times and trampled in a massive police assault.

WAYNE GARRISON, 47 (7/26/98)

Shot in his W. Chicago apartment building.

THEODORE LAROQUE, 28 (9/14/98)

Shot four times by P.O. A. Goree.

MALICE GREEN (11/92)

Beaten to death in his car by Police Officers Budzyn and Nevers.

SOUTHGATE

DAVID DOWD, 40 (6/6/98)

Shot by Southgate police.

REDFORD TOWNSHIP

MARK GAYDOS, 37 (6/12/98)

Shot by Redford Township police.

APPENDIX B

BUDZYN AND NEVERS: History of Abuse of Citizens

Walter Budzyn, one of the murderers of Malice Green, has been acquitted. After his original second degree murder conviction was overturned, a new jury found him guilty of involuntary manslaughter, and the judge freed on “time served.” Larry Nevers, one of the other murderers, is also free while awaiting a retrial after his second degree murder conviction was overturned in December 1997.

These killers savagely beat Malice Green with a heavy flashlight till part of his brain and scalp lay on the ground, laughed and taunted horrified witnesses by tossing a toy gun at their feet and daring them to pick it up, then coldly wiped the blood from their hands and flashlights, still laughing and joking. However, before they even committed this heinous crime, Budzyn and Nevers had left a trail of victims behind them. Dubbed “Starsky and Hutch” by people in the neighborhoods because of their brutality, for more than two decades they carried out a reign of terror that made them notorious and widely hated. At the time of Malice Green’s death, they each had 25 counts of brutality on their records, and had been the subjects of numerous lawsuits, in which the city had to pay cash settlements, including the following:

- 1966 Nevers and a partner were sued after beating a man in restaurant parking lot
- 1967 Budzvn was sued in another assault case
- 1972 Nevers shot and critically wounded a 15- year- old boy in a gas station
- 1973 The city had to pay out in a wrongful death suit after Nevers and four other STRESS policemen shot a woman in the back
- Mid-80s Budzyn and another officer assaulted a man in a crowded downtown bar
- 1990 Nevers attacked a frail teenager in a car near Tiger Stadium, breaking the young man’s arm

In all these cases, the city had to pay out cash settlements in lawsuits. Yet until Malice Green’s death, Budzyn and Nevers were never charged. This record of abuse was never introduced during their original trial. During the 1993 trial, many people came forward to the media to testify that they had been assaulted by Budzyn and Nevers. On TV, one man showed scars he had received in a beating by one of them when he was 14. Another man said he had been assaulted with fists and flashlight, and had pictures of how badly he was injured in the beating. An owner of a Coney Island, interviewed by the *Detroit News* at the time, said of Larry Nevers: “Every time, and I mean everytime, I’d see him, he’d have somebody stretched out searching them. All the characters I know around here say the same thing, that he was a real abusive cap.” During jury selection for the trial in the Malice Green murder case, some of the potential jurors had to be dismissed because they had had encounters with Budzyn and Nevers. There are the countless, chilling stories told by people who live in the neighborhoods of the Third precinct, known by the people as “Little Mississippi”, where Budzyn and Nevers are alleged to have been routinely involved in abusive conduct.

Demands of the Detroit Coalition against Police Brutality

Based on knowledge gleaned from our ongoing work as a community organization, the information we have researched for presentation in this document, and the personal testimonies with which we are familiar, some of which will be presented here tonight, the Coalition demands the following interventions by the Detroit City Council to begin immediately bring relief to Detroit citizens from what we have shown to be an epidemic of irresponsible, unconstitutional, and criminally brutal police conduct:

1. We demand an end to police patrol car chases, which kill and/or threaten the lives of suspects as well as innocent bystanders or drivers in the vicinity. We demand that the City Council take immediate steps to develop with the Police Department guidelines restricting when, where and under what circumstances such chases may be undertaken. Incidents of police high-speed chases have taken the lives of at least eight metro Detroiters. (*Detroit News*, March 5, 1998, C1) We demand further that Detroit dissolve any standing reciprocal agreements with neighboring law enforcement agencies which permit them to pursue citizens in high speed chases into the city of Detroit.
2. The City Council must require and monitor the operation of a policy of risk management in the Detroit Police Department, whereby police officers who are predisposed to violent behavior, or who have previously violated citizens' rights, will be reprimanded, required to take corrective instruction, tracked closely by superiors, and finally removed from the force if they are found to be incapable of appropriate professional police conduct. We demand an end to protection of police officers who have repeatedly violated citizens human rights, officers such as Budzyn and Nevers, who had a long, monstrous records of police brutality even before they murdered Malice Green, but were allowed to continue on the force. **See attached details of Budzyn's and Nevers' abuses prior to their murder of Malice Green.**
3. Related to the policy of risk management, we demand the City Council require that Detroit Police Department enforce rules of residency requirement, educational upgrades for promotions in the Department, and strict adherence to affirmative action guidelines. Detroit needs a police force that reflects its racial diversity, lives in the City, and is available to assist citizens on a 24-hour basis. In addition, Detroit, with one of the most sophisticated urban population in the nation, requires police officers who are well educated and sensitive to basic protocols of respectful human social behavior. It is especially important that police officers learn ways to approach, question and communicate with persons who are mentally or physically disabled.
4. We demand that the City Council require of the Detroit Police Department an annual report of citizens' complaints against that Department; that complaints filed by intermediaries or witnesses to police brutality also be recorded; that fatalities at the hands of police officers be included, and that the disposition of all cases of citizen complaint be summarized and compiled in a single document that is available to the public. We further demand that complaints of prisoners against the Detroit Police Department be properly recorded and documented and that disposition of their complaints be summarized and available to the public. One obstacle to effective monitoring of citizen complaints and disciplinary actions on police officers is the lack of properly kept records and statistics. This absence of records persists in spite of the fact that the United States Justice Department's 1994 Crime Act requires police departments to maintain accurate databases regarding use of force by police officers. On

November 10, 1998, the Detroit Coalition against Police Brutality was denied statistical information concerning civilian fatalities involving police officers. Our request was made under the Freedom of Information Act. We asked for names and addresses of all victims and their next of kin. We also asked for cause of death, ethnic group, gender, disability status, sexual orientation and age of each victim, as well as the names of police officers involved. The reason given for denial of our request for this information was "the Detroit Police Department does not maintain a record of information you have requested.... In order to comply with your request it would require research and compilation of numerous records." We were told, further, that the DPD is not required to *compile* such records, only to provide a copy of existing documents, but only those pertaining to *specific incidents*. This appears to us to be a form of institutionalized secrecy. We therefore intend to appeal this denial of information.

5. We demand that the City Council require accountability from the Detroit Police Department in its application for, receipt of and allocation of funds from the State and Federal governments; that such funds be used in ways that are non-discriminatory, and that no programs implemented by these funds will violate human and Constitutional rights of Detroit citizens – as does, for example, the current practice of computer filing of the fingerprints of everyone who is arrested, whether or not the person is charged with a crime of misdemeanor.
6. We further demand that the City Council implement new policies to provide for communities to establish their own structures for handling matters of conflict within their jurisdictions; that citizens may have the option to submit their grievances/conflicts for resolution by their neighbors or persons whom they trust, thereby remaining outside the police/criminal justice system altogether.
7. We demand that City Council take every action to ensure that Detroit Police Department practices of surveillance and intimidation of community activists cease immediately; and that those who work consistently in our communities to protect and ensure our civil and human rights will not be subjected to a reinstatement of the notorious Red Squad files. **Further we demand that the continued harassment and surveillance of families whose members have been abused or killed by police be halted immediately. The burden of grief that these families are carrying is already more than should be required of anyone in a so-called democracy. Tonight we will hear testimony concerning instances of police harassment and intimidation of the families of victims.**
8. We demand that the City Council take every action to protect Detroit citizens from any state or federal programs, plans or strategies that would use military forces in conjunction with Detroit police to further repress, intimidate or violate citizens' Constitutional and human rights.
9. **Most important, we demand that the Police Chief, the Public Safety Director and members of the Police Commission be elected officials.** An elected Police Commission must have its own independent counsel and subpoena powers. It would serve as the Board of Review, responsible to the citizenry to monitor and ensure professional police conduct. These demands emerge from the obvious failure of the current police review structures to hold police accountable. We have already cited the formidable expense to Detroit citizens brought by police abuse case settlements. First the police abuse citizens physically, sometimes taking their lives; then they abuse the general population by making us pay for their criminal behavior. We must have a

Police Chief and Police Commission who are directly accountable to the citizens. These changes require amendment of the City Charter, which we demand that City Council begin to prepare immediately.